

**GOVERNOR JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM**

Friday, October 13, 2006

Hello, this is Governor Jennifer Granholm.

This week, the Global Engine Manufacturing Alliance, GEMA, opened a second facility in Dundee, Michigan.

GEMA is a first-of-its-kind partnership between DaimlerChrysler, Hyundai and Mitsubishi to build engines that will be used in a variety of different vehicle models.

These international companies could have chosen to locate their plants anywhere in the world, and they chose Michigan.

The two facilities in Dundee employ more than 500 people and they'll produce 840,000 fuel-efficient engines each year.

What makes these facilities unique is not the engine they build but the way it is being built.

This partnership represents a new way of doing business, with former competitors – now partners – collaborating on a single product.

This partnership represents the new economy, where manufacturing jobs demand such a high skill level that, as a worker, your ticket inside this plant isn't a high school diploma, you've got to have a college or technical certification.

These are plants where labor and management are a strong team willing to operate in new ways.

This partnership, these plants, and the men and women who work inside them represent the hope for Michigan's future and provide the roadmap for how our state is transforming to succeed in a global economy.

We have to collaborate at every level of government to provide services efficiently. And we are: streamlining permitting, putting Michigan's businesses first, and investing in the things that matter most like education and health care.

We must expand access to higher education and job training to ensure that our citizens have the skills they need to succeed. And we are. Thanks to an overhaul of the state's job training efforts, a rigorous high school curriculum, and my proposals for a \$4,000 new Merit Award Scholarship for our kids and a tax credit for transitioning workers.

We also have to reach around the globe for opportunities that can create the jobs we need in Michigan. And we are. I am going anywhere and doing anything to achieve that goal.

My two trips to Japan have resulted in 22 companies coming or expanding in Michigan, creating more than 1,000 jobs.

When the Global Engine Manufacturing Alliance was first proposed, many people wrote it off as an unachievable dream. But we've watched it as it grew from an idea to a reality right here in Michigan thanks to the hard work of automakers, labor leadership and the workers who have proven that where there is commitment, transformation is possible.

I have that same commitment for Michigan's economy and I'm going to continue to work every day to implement my comprehensive economic plan to make it happen.

Thank you for listening.